

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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R 041245Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 331

INFO CINCPAC HAWAII

S E C R E T BANGKOK 1909

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, TH

SUBJECT : REDUCTION OF RADIO RESEARCH PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 017610

1. "TRUCE MONITOR" SITUATION DISCUSSED WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK BY EMBOFF FEBRUARY 1. WE RECALLED EARLIER DISCUSSIONS REGARDING SUPREME COMMAND DESIRE TO HAVE TEMPORARY GROUP OF "TRUCE MONITORS" OVER 2000 CEILING PHASED OUT, AND SAID THAT OUR TARGET DATE WAS NOW ABOUT APRIL. WE EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD EARLIER EXPECTED QUICKER REDUCTIONS, BUT THE UNCERTAINTIES IN INDOCHINA, WHICH REQUIRED MAINTENANCE OF OUR AIR STRIKE FORCES IN THAILAND, ALSO DICTATED RETENTION OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO MONITOR COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. KRIANGSAK ACCEPTED OUR EXPLANATION WITHOUT DEMUR, BUT INDICATED HE WILL BE HAPPIER WHEN HE RECEIVES OUR CONFIRMATION THAT 2000 CAXLING NS BEEN REACHED.

2. WE ALSO INFORMED HIM THAT THE ROSTERS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL COVERED BY SPECIAL DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AGREEMENTS, WHICH WE ARE NOW SUPPLYING TO SUPREME COMMAND, ARE HONEST IN LISTING LESS THAN 2000 RADIO RESEARCH PERSONNEL, SINCE FOR THE PURPOSE WE HAVE ELIMINATED ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL AT RAMASON NOT CLEARED FOR THE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS WHICH REQUIRE, IN OUR OPINION, IMMUNITY FROM THAI JURISDICTION.

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KRIANGSAK IN REPLY STRESSED THAT THE CEILING MUST APPLY

TO EVERYBODY (AT RAMASUN RADIO RESEARCH STATION).

3. KRIANGSAK EXPRESSED SOME ANXIETY OVER VISIBILITY OF AMERICAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. EMBOFF ASSURED HIM THAT AMBASSADOR IS REVIEWING ALL USG ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY TO ELIMINATE NON-ESSENTIALS AND EFFECT REDUCTIONS WHERE POSSIBLE, BUT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA AFFECT OUR PLANS. NO COMMITMENT MADE AT THIS TIME FOR FURTHER REDUCTIONS BEYOND 2000 LEVEL.

4. EMBOFFS ALSO VISITED RAMASUN STATION JAN 29 TO REVIEW OVERCROWDING SITUATION DISCUSSED WITH ASD/ INTELLIGENCE DR. HALL. IT APPEARS THAT, DESPITE FACT THAT BARRACKS ARE OVERCROWDED AND BELOW PRESENT ARMY STANDARDS IN TERMS OF PRIVACY AND FACILITIES, MORALE IS HIGH, AS ATTESTED BY REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS AND REENLISTMENTS. ONE NEW BARRACKS BUILDING TO BE COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY WILL EASE CROWDING AND PROVIDE QUARTERS FOR MOST OF 250 MEN NOW LIVING OFF STATION; REDUCTION IN NUMBER BELLETED OFF-BASE SHOULD REDUCE INCIDENTS OF ARMED ROBBERY OF RAMASUN PERSONNEL MOVING TO AND FROM NIGHT SHIFTS; MACTHAI PM HAS ALSO ARRANGED FOR EXTRA POLICE PATROLS IN DANGER AREAS NEAR RAMASUN. PLANNED REDUCTION TO BELOW 1600 TOTAL RADIO RESEARCH PERSONNEL IN THAILAND WOULD EASE BUT NOT SOLVE RAMASUN HOUSING PROBLEM FOR LONG HAUL; EMBOFFS RECOMMEND CONTINUED EFFORTS TO BRING SPACE PER MAN UP TO STATE-SIDE STANDARDS (FOR PROGRAMMED 1600 STRENGTH).
KINTNER

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